

The Last Word . . .

Why You Have To Look at Risks

By Rae Mack

The news this morning wasn't good. There were reports of three people dying on our highways in Tidewater, which is what some people call the area around here in Norfolk. These people weren't famous, so their deaths won't make headlines elsewhere.

I'm telling you about these deaths because of why these people died. They didn't think about the consequences of what they were doing.

The first death was a 17-year-old boy. He and his 14-year-old friend were crossing an interstate on foot. The 17-year-old dropped a bag of chips, then darted back onto the highway to retrieve them. When he did, a car hit and killed him. The driver pulled his car over and ran away. Police later arrested him at a hospital. We don't know why he ran away (maybe the shock of killing someone?), but now he is in trouble with the law, something he probably wouldn't have

been if he had stayed at the scene. Two people here didn't think about the risks of what they did.

The second two people who didn't consider the risks of what they were doing and died were a young man and his 25-year-old fiancée. Instead of having her take a motorcycle course, he was teaching her how to drive his Harley-Davidson 2000 motorcycle. They were riding with a group, with the woman driving and the man riding as a passenger. Suddenly, the bike veered off the road and ran headlong into trees. Even though both were wearing helmets, they died instantly.

Think about these two incidents when you decide to take chances. This is why we are constantly telling you to practice risk management off duty, as well as when you are at work. If these people had weighed the risks, they might still be around. ■